

conditions and potential exposures in the K-25 Building vaults. Industrial hygienists, Health Services and pulmonary physicians met and a clearer understanding of how health services and industrial hygiene could help these specialists provide the most effective care to the employees was established. The pulmonary physicians also determined that a first-hand visit to the vaults would help them in their treatments of the employees.

RESOLUTION/RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: Occupational physicians and medical staff should make regular visits to the work sites and plant facilities to become familiar with employee job tasks, work site environments, and existing or potential health hazards. These visits should be coordinated with other safety and health professionals in the fields of industrial hygiene, health physics, and industrial safety. These visits should include a review of materials, processes, and procedures used with emphasis on physical, chemical, and biological hazards in the work environment. These regular visits will allow the physicians and medical staff to become familiar with issues and concerns when employees visit Health Services for personal medical reasons.

Health Services should develop a set of diagnostic outlines describing the genesis and symptoms of illnesses associated with exposure to bioaerosols. Physicians examining and diagnosing employees with potential bioaerosol exposures should use these guidelines. Procedures for referral of employees to off-site specialists should be revised to require that exposure information, as well as associated medical information, be provided to the off-site specialist. Providing off-site specialists the opportunity to visit on-site facilities may be beneficial in assisting them in understanding the work environment and associated medical problems.

Additional lessons learned will be disseminated as identified during the implementation of corrective actions and follow-up assessments.

ORIGINATOR: Bechtel Jacobs Company, LLC;

Cynthia M. Eubanks; Performance/Quality Assurance; (423)576-7763

VALIDATOR: Charles E Chmielewski; (423) 241-0136

CONTACT: Joanne E. Schutt, (423) 574-1248

NAME OF AUTHORIZED DERIVATIVE CLASSIFIER: Jeffrey S. Paris

NAME OF REVIEWING OFFICIAL: D. D. Holt

PRIORITY DESCRIPTOR: Yellow/Caution

KEYWORDS: industrial hygiene, respiratory, vaults, shutdown facility, bioaerosol

REFERENCES: For-Cause Review of Worker Respiratory Illnesses Associated with Working in the K-25 Vaults at the East Tennessee Technology Park, DOE-ORO, June, 1998

DOE FUNCTIONAL AREAS: Occupational Safety and Health, Management

BJC TREND CATEGORIES: SH - Occupational Safety and Health, MG - Management

HAZARDS: Health/Hygiene, Personnel Protection

WORK ACTIVITY: Facility Maintenance, Other

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: Information in this report is accurate to the best of our knowledge. As means of measuring the effectiveness of this report please notify Joanne E. Schutt at (423) 574-1248, e-mail at s6u@ornl.gov of any action taken as a result of this report or of any technical inaccuracies you find. Your feedback is important and appreciated